

NCR - Committeemen's Letter No. 9

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AGRICULTURAL ADJUSTMENT ADMINISTRATION
Washington, D. C.



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JUN 14 1938

April 5, 1938.

TO MEMBERS OF AGRICULTURAL CONSERVATION COMMITTEES--
NORTH CENTRAL REGION:

Dear Committeeman:

Some farmers in the North Central Region States have expressed concern that the cotton South may increase the competition for Northern corn and dairy farmers by shifting heavily from cotton to corn and dairy production.

What southern farmers actually did in this regard since 1933 should furnish a good indication of what they may do in 1938. The statements in this letter are based on Bureau of Agricultural Economics figures and on census figures for the 12 Southern States of Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Tennessee, Alabama, Mississippi, Arkansas, Louisiana, Texas, and Oklahoma.

A study of the records calls attention to these important facts:

1. The number of bushels of corn produced in these 12 States has been less than the 1928-32 average in three out of the five years of the AAA programs, with a net decrease for the entire five-year period.
2. Although the number of bushels of corn production has been smaller, there has been some increase over the previous five years in corn acreage. The 1928-32 annual average of corn acreage in these States was 28,807,000 acres. The 1933-37 average was 30,247,000 acres. The smallest corn acreage in these States since the War was 26,364,000 acres in 1925; the largest, 35,209,000 acres in 1921. Last year, corn acreage in these States was 28,703,000 acres. The March "Intentions to Plant" report of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics indicates that corn acreage in 1938 in these States will be 29,348,000 acres.
3. The 1923-32 average annual yield of corn in these States was 15.3 bushels per acre, compared with an average yield of 25.7 bushels per acre for all farms in the United States, and an average yield of 38.3 bushels per acre in Iowa.
4. Corn acreage in these States is about 2-1/2 times the corn acreage in Iowa, yet Iowa produces as many bushels of corn as all 12 of these States.

5. Grain sorghum acreage and production have increased in Texas and Oklahoma, but this increase has not quite offset the decrease in corn acreage made since 1933 by farmers in these States.
6. When there are surpluses of livestock and livestock feeds, they are produced outside of the South, yet the South is doing its share in preventing such surpluses. The 320 pounds of cottonseed produced from the average acre of cotton has a feed value equal to 5.7 bushels of corn. When the Southern farmer reduces his cotton crop one acre, he reduces production of livestock feed supplies the equivalent of 5.7 bushels of corn. With an average corn yield in the South of 15.3 bushels per acre, the average cotton grower would have to plant more than an acre of corn for each three acres taken out of cotton in order to continue producing the same livestock feed equivalent.
7. Not only does cottonseed in the form of cake or meal contribute to livestock feed supplies, but cottonseed oil, extracted from the seed, competes directly with butter and lard in the form of substitutes for these products. By reducing this competition, the Southern cotton program has been a factor in the improved prices for butter and lard.
8. The average number of dairy cows in the 12 States listed is just slightly over two per farm, compared with an average of nearly four for all farms in the United States, and an average of more than ten per farm in Wisconsin.
9. In 1932, before the AAA programs, there were 5,562,000 dairy cows in these 12 States; on January 1, 1938, there were 5,896,000.
10. More than one-fourth of the farm families in these 12 States do not have a dairy cow. The lack of dairy cows in the South is in a large measure responsible for the inadequate diet of many of the 800,000 farm families in these States who do not have a dairy cow.

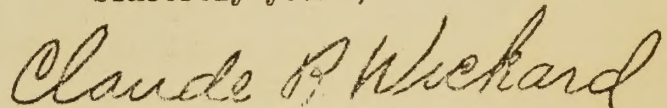
There is great need in the South for more dairy and poultry products and meats on farms where there are families who do not have money to buy these foods and whose standard of living is much lower than for farm families in the North. If corn production were increased in the South, it would mean more and better food for farm families that are unable to buy it. Northern farmers surely cannot object to increases needed in the South for a better diet for undernourished families. All farmers, North and South, East and West, must understand each others' problems and work together if we are to have a nationally successful program for agriculture.

An important point for Corn Belt farmers to consider is this: If cotton farmers, by adjusting production to effective demand can obtain fair prices, the South will be more prosperous and will provide a better market for the products of the Corn Belt.

The South this year will doubtless continue with a substantially smaller cotton acreage than in the years immediately preceding the AAA programs, and Southern farmers might grow a little more than the average acreage of corn this year, but there is no chance whatever for cotton farmers to become commercial competitors with Corn Belt farmers.

The agricultural program in the cotton South has benefited rather than harmed the northern farmer.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Claude R. Wickard". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name and title.

Claude R. Wickard,
Director,
North Central Division,
Agricultural Adjustment Administration.

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO
DIVISION OF THE PHYSICAL SCIENCES
DEPARTMENT OF CHEMISTRY
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

REPORT OF THE
COMMISSIONERS OF THE
BUREAU OF CHEMISTRY
AND MINERALOGY
FOR THE YEAR 1900

BY
J. H. MANNING

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

1901